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FOOD PRESERVE

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

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F P - 71

MEAT..... Although marketings of fed cattle increased in the first quarter of the year, slaughter supplies are expected to continue large through midyear. Eleven percent more cattle and calves were on feed April 1 than a year earlier. While fed cattle prices will be under pressure until July, the outlook is for some improvement, pricewise, later in the year, due to the expected decline in fed beef output. Hog slaughter has been decreasing seasonally and in late May dropped close to last year's levels. The decline in hog slaughter resulted in a sharp recovery in hog prices in late May as the average price for slaughter barrows and gilts rose from \$13.65 in late April to \$14.99 by mid-May. Unlike cattle and hogs, slaughter of sheep and lambs the first three months of 1963 declined considerably below that period last year. Slaughter rates likely will remain below the 1962 levels, but second quarter slaughter margin is expected to narrow. Lamb prices have responded to the lower supply level and continue above last year in spite of the lower prices for beef.

POULTRY... Higher chick and feed prices than last year, as well as lower broiler prices through March led to less of a seasonal rise in this year compared with last. From the beginning of April through mid-May, supplies, though rising seasonally were slightly smaller than in those months last year. However, broilers will be more plentiful than in 1962 in the third quarter. Second quarter broiler producer prices are likely to average higher than 14.5 cents per pound in April-June 1962.

Eggs..... In the second half, eggs are likely to be more plentiful than in the same period last year. But, egg production for 1963 as a whole likely will total about the same as in 1962.

Turkeys... Growers appear to be going through with their plans announced last January to raise only slightly more birds than last year. Although May 1 cold storage holdings were 117 million pounds--a fourth smaller than a year earlier--they were still 18 percent greater than average.

DAIRY.... First quarter milk production averaged nearly one percent below that same period a year ago. Although 1962 output rose about 0.4 percent from 1961, per capita consumption declined slightly and some further decrease is expected this year. USDA is again assisting the dairy industry in promoting June Dairy Month.

FRUIT:

Fresh..... May 1 prospects in nine southern States point to a heavy crop--17,565,000 bushels--18 percent more than last year and 13 percent above average. All these States except the Carolinas expect larger crops than in 1962, and, except for Oklahoma, are above the 1957-61 average. Georgia, though, will show an increase of 1 million bushels--its largest crop since 1945. Texas peach growers expect the largest crop in 10 years.

Apricots....California's crop is estimated at 210,000 tons --36 percent larger than last year and a fifth above average.

Sweet.....Forecast for California is 16,000 tons --nearly a third below 1962 and 28 percent below average.

Plums.....California's crop is placed at 83,000 tons --down 1,000 tons from last year, but 3 percent above average.

Citrus.....May 1 roundup of the 1962-63 citrus crop shows production was 26 percent below the previous season. After May 1 only 18 million boxes of oranges remained for harvesting, compared with 49 million a year ago. After June 1, though, practically all oranges will come from California. About 90 percent of all grapefruit has been harvested by May 1. The lemon crop is 28 percent below the previous season's. Although only about half as many lemons were used by May 1, compared with the date last year, about the same number of boxes --7-2/5 million-- remained for harvest as against a year earlier.

Frozen.....Cold storage stocks totaled 50 million gallons on May 1, 17 percent larger than on that same date last year. But stocks have since fallen much below year-earlier levels and will remain so this summer.

Orange Juice

Frozen.....May 1 cold storage holdings totaled 314 million pounds, --7 percent above average but 7 percent smaller than a year ago.

Fruits

Canned.....Supplies from the record 1962-63 pack are expected to be a little smaller this spring and summer than last year.

Strawberries.....The 1963 crop is estimated at 509 million pounds--down 6 million pounds from last year but 2 million above average.

Watermelons.....Late spring watermelons are estimated at 9,378,000 hundredweight-- about the same as last year. Growers of the early summer crop have 201,200 acres for harvest, which runs about 1 percent smaller than in 1962.

Cantaloups..First spring crop forecasts indicate 3.8 million hundredweight--5 percent smaller than last year but 7 percent above average. In the early summer States estimates are for a planting of 11,200 acres--1,200 acres below last year.

VEGETABLES..Production of spring vegetables is forecast about 4 percent larger than last year, but above average. Prospects point to a record high crop of spring sweet corn. Other items showing increases are celery, onions and tomatoes. Lettuce production will about equal a year earlier, but spring asparagus and cabbage are expected to be in smaller supply.

Canned.....Remaining supplies are materially larger than those of a year earlier, and well above the recent 10-year average.

Frozen.....May 1 cold storage holdings declined seasonally to slightly above 1 billion pounds, as against 942 million pounds a year ago.

Potatoes....May 1 estimates for early spring potatoes total 4.8 million hundredweight, or nearly a tenth more than month-earlier figures. At this level production will run 41 percent greater than last year and nearly a fifth above the 1957-61 average. The late spring potato crop is placed at 23,400,000 hundredweight--8 percent above last year, but 8 percent below average.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

JUNE DAIRY MONTH.....June 1 - 30	NATIONAL BARBECUE MONTH.....June 1 - 30
SUMMER TURKEY TIME....June-July-August	PICNIC MONTH.....July 1 - 31

The following foods will be in plentiful supply in July:

Turkeys, Summer Vegetables, Fresh Peaches, Watermelons, Milk and Dairy Products, Peanut Butter and Vegetable Fats and Oils.